

February 13, 2003

FRIEND -

In order to inform those who are deeply involved in the activities of your organization or association of the major challenges facing the State of California, I am transmitting these documents, with links for Internet access, to you in the hope that you will broadcast them as fully as you can, as expeditiously as possible.

As the Dean of the California Legislature, I have just two years left to serve California and I find myself ready to articulate a series of papers focusing first on our budget crisis. Over the next few months, I expect to add more information and reflections about the underlying massive and serious challenges facing our state, which will not be solved without the involvement and advocacy of a broad cross-section of organizations and residents of California.

I know you share my deep affection and commitment to our state and its people. We owe it to our children and our future to take these challenges seriously and to bring them to a solution. The chaos we are currently experiencing will only get worse unless we understand the underlying problems and fix them.

I have asked my staff to assemble email addresses for the top ten organizations involved in the major policy areas affected by state government. Your organization is on that list. Please use whatever means you have to get the attached documents, or link to those documents (below), out to at least 100 groups, encouraging them to in turn do the same.

This is not a time for timidity or passive observation. Causes and issues your group has fought for over the decades are "on the line" and the structural and political problems preventing thoughtful solutions are deep and abiding. They will not be solved without a clear and sustained demand from the public to do so.

My intent with these papers is to promote and provoke dialogue to stimulate the activity necessary to fix what is broken in our state.

Please join me!

I thank you. I wish you well.

JOHN VASCONCELLOS

Links

[Introduction to JV 'Dean's Observations](#)

[Critical Observations from the Dean of the California Legislature - #1](#)

[Critical Observations from the Dean of the California Legislature - #2](#)

[Critical Reflections of the Dean of the California Legislature - #3](#)

<http://democrats.sen.ca.gov/senator/Vasconcellos/>

Click on "Press Room" on the left side menu for these and other Publications from Senator Vasconcellos.